

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 368



Introduced by: Hon. Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr.

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEATH OF PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY CADET DARWIN DORMITORIO WITH THE END OF PROBING INTO THE PROTOCOLS OF THE PMA INVOLVING THE PMA CADET CORPS

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution states that: "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights";

WHEREAS, consistent with the constitutional mandate, and as a response to the death of Leonardo Villa in 1991, who died from multiple injuries when he underwent hazing rites by the Aquila Legis, a fraternity of law students at the Ateneo de Manila University, Republic Act No. 8049, or the Anti-Hazing Act of 1995 was enacted to prohibit human rights abuses in initiation rites;

WHEREAS, so many deaths involving hazing in initiation rites have been prosecuted but since the enactment of RA 8049, only one conviction was won in over 23 years, hence, Republic Act 11053 or the Anti-Hazing Act of 2018 was passed and then signed into law on June 2018 replacing R.A. 8049 to impose harsher penalties on hazing death and penalize individuals who attempt to cover up hazing activities;

WHEREAS, last September 18, 2019, a 20-year-old 4th class cadet of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) named Darwin Dormitorio was found to have died of heart attack after internal bleeding caused by blunt force trauma and that the autopsy showed Dormitorio had "bruises on different parts of his body that are probably the result of him being punched and kicked several times by his upperclassmen."^[1] Moreover, according to his family, he had damaged internal organs and he was electrocuted in his private parts;

WHEREAS, due to the alleged hazing incident, three other cadets and three non-faculty employees were considered persons of interest as the military and police continued a joint investigation;^[2]

WHEREAS, considering that the hazing Darwin Dormitorio suffered took place while he was a cadet of the Philippine Military Academy, the Dormitorio family, calls upon PMA to be held responsible for his death;

WHEREAS, PMA superintendent said the PMA had established protocols, involving cadets themselves, relating to maltreatment since 1997 and that the PMA underwent a curriculum overhaul that included new regulations on the manner senior cadets should treat lower-class cadets as they follow the chain of command;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Military Academy, which was created pursuant to Commonwealth Act. No. 1 or the National Defense Act, has the mandate to train selected candidates for permanent commission in the Armed Forces of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, PMA has adopted a holistic view of man as body, soul, and spirit. PMA believes that future leaders can be selected, formed, and developed to their fullest potentials and that the PMA is principally an institution for military leadership and it is from the total view of man that PMA's leader development program is based and designed to include character development, a balanced college education, military leadership, and physical development—all necessary to prepare the cadets for the profession of arms and to be responsive to the needs of the Armed Forces and the nation.^[1]

WHEREAS, despite such philosophy, PMA has failed to curb hazing that is contrary to the values espoused by the institution in providing military education. Further, the excessive infliction of physical or psychological injury to the point of death does not equate to physical development that is necessary to prepare the cadets for the profession;

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives has the constitutional authority to oversee the implementation of all laws, including the Anti-Hazing Law, and see to it that the Philippine Military Academy acts within its mandate as a government institution primarily engaged in producing principled and competent military officers and body that upholds the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights;

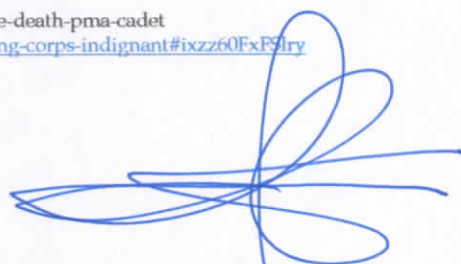
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives to direct the appropriate committee to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the death of Philippine Military Academy Cadet Darwin Dormitorio, with the end view of probing into the protocols of the PMA involving the PMA Cadet Corps of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

^[1] <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2019/09/22/1953831/house-probe-death-pma-cadet>

^[2] <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1167479/pma-cadets-death-traced-to-hazing-corps-indignant#ixzz60FxFS1ry>

^[3] <https://www.pma.ph/admission.php>

Adopted,



Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr.
Ako Bicol Party-List